

1895 (Mar)

Wasatch Co. Building Survey

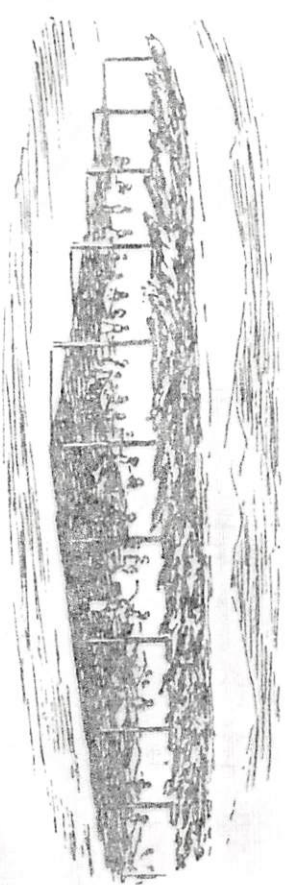
Name of Building: Bowery in Heber Utah

Information Required	Date Found
Location: Warmlands @ mouth of Pine Canyon	
Address: Town: Midway	
Architect: David Nathaniel Murdock	
Builders: " "	
Building Material: poles & boughs of trees	
Style of Building:	
Date Built:	
Original Owners: David Nathaniel Murdock	
FGS	
Pedigree	
Histories	
Pictures	
Subsequent Owners:	
Notes:	
References: 1. Under Wasatch Skies pp 49-51	
2. HBM pp 12-13	

Midway
1890

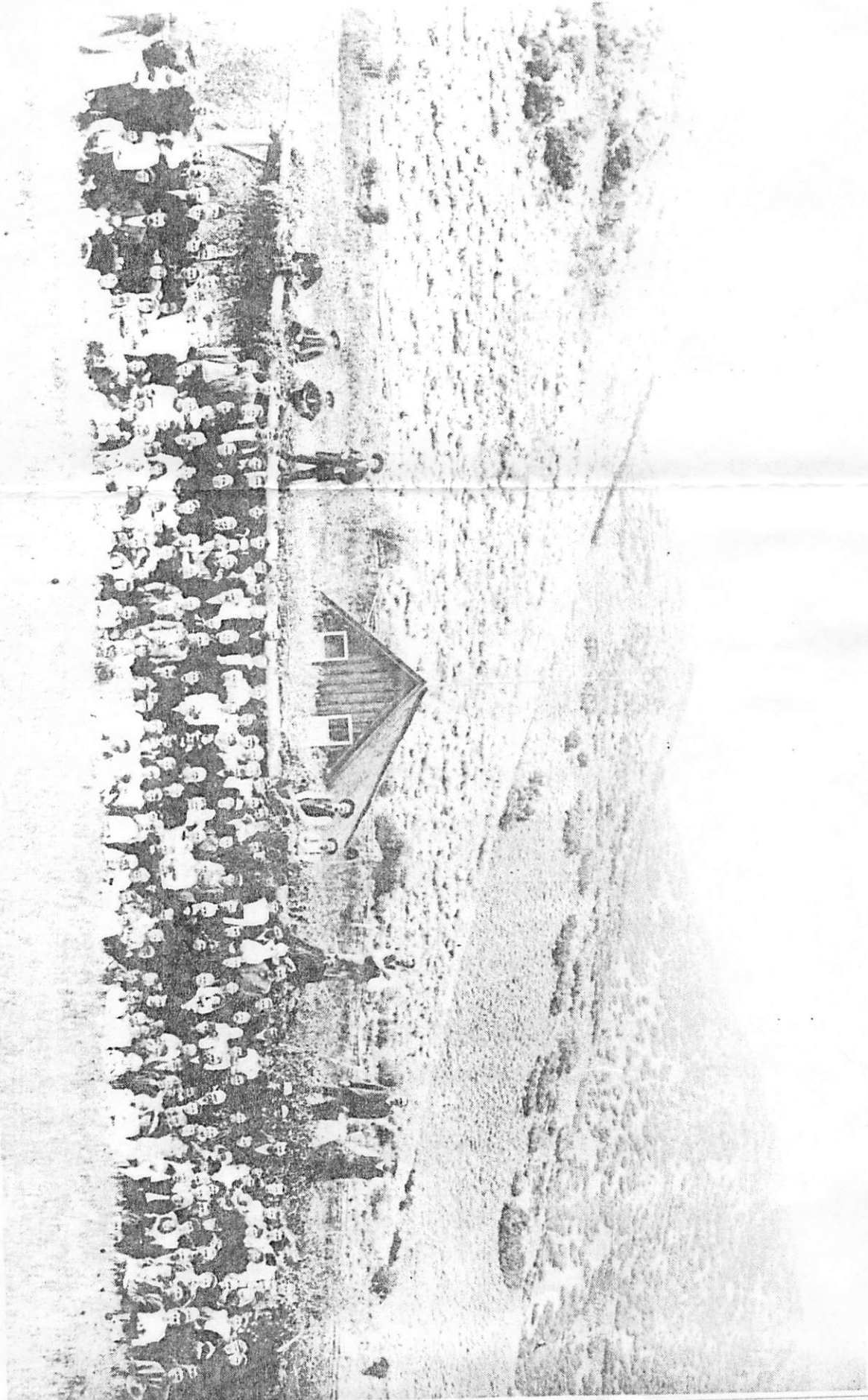
THEATER IN THE WILDERNESS

The ideals and daily lives of a people may be judged pretty much by their standards of amusements. The culture of a people is expressed in art, literature, music, and the drama, which "bind people together in the kindlier feelings of our common nature." Among the fine arts encouraged by the pioneers of Utah were music and drama, and hardly had the colonizers planted their fields and begun building their homes when they built a theater in the wilderness. . . .



The Bowery

Pat Stevenson
65d-1606



The old bowery, Midway, Heber Valley. Used as a church place of worship until a meetinghouse could be built.
Pick Murdock standing to left of building (in black suit and hat). David standing to right of building (holding child). Standing directly under Pick and to his left are Jane, Eliza, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Nymphus.
(Author)

while the tent became a store, boarding house and community center for homesteaders who flocked in to select their lands. Later a huge bonfire was built near the tent, around which were gathered 52 men, and Dora, his daughter, the only woman on the town-site. Grant was the only boy on the camp-site. In honor of the occasion the crowd voted to call the settlement Dora, the name it carried for some time or until the post office was established under the name Theodore.

Owning the home ranch had been a dream of the family for years, and when it was finally secured on the Strawberry River, Alva and Josephine made a trip to Salt Lake and had planned a trip to the coast to improve her health. This was not to be, however, and in three weeks she was dead. Her passing occurred February 3, 1913, at the home of her son-in-law, Oscar A. Kirkham.

Alva then put all his energy into building up the ranch to make it a real home for his children and their friends. He had three summer homes built for Ida, Dora and Vern and their families, and a place of fun and entertainment in the large ranch house for his younger family, along with the work that necessarily had to be done.

After World War I, a financial crash came to Alva, as it did to many others, and he also realized that a home was not a home without a mother. So, in October, 1915, he married Ivy Stephens Lidell, and on April 7, 1919, his son, Willard S., was born.

In the meantime, many of his large family had been married and were living in homes of their own, some in the basin and others scattered about Utah and other states.

Of his 11 children, two died in infancy, and Merle and Wells as adults, Dora Ryan passing away in December, 1958. The others are Mrs. Oscar A. Kirkham, Salt Lake; Mrs. R. S. Lusty and Grant Murdock, Duchesne; Mrs. Hazel M. Murray, Willits, California; Mrs. J. C. Hansen, Helper, Utah; Ralph C. Murdock, Whitman, Nebraska; and Willard S. Murdock, Roosevelt, Utah.

Although Alva's health was failing, he was still active in civic and home affairs, and rode his favorite horse daily. At a meeting on February 2, 1944, he was elected general chairman for the Duchesne County

Fair Committee. He had also been president of the Chamber of Commerce and the year before had been chairman of the Duchesne County Stampede.

However, his family insisted he should seek medical aid in Salt Lake City, and he underwent an operation. He later was taken to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Oscar A. Kirkham, where all thought he was improving until the morning of November 1, 1944. He realized the end was near and asked Oscar to say a prayer, and a great spirit passed on.

ANDREW H. MURDOCK

Andrew H. Murdock was born November 14, 1881, at Heber, son of Joseph Stacy and Elizabeth Hunter Murdock, and was the youngest of 32 children of his father. He married Amanda Jane Horner on December 31, 1902. She died January 11, 1954. Andrew was educated in the Heber schools and was active in the sheep industry from 1909 to 1925. He purchased the Ideal Theatre in 1925, operating it until his death. At the time of his death he was survived by two sons and a daughter, Ellis and Ben Murdock and Mrs. Rhea Holm.

DAVID N. MURDOCK



David N. Murdock, eldest son of Joseph Stacy Murdock and Jane Sharp, was born April 23, 1855, at "Church Pastures," Salt Lake City, Utah. He rode horses early in life, herding cows in the foothills, always on the lookout for Indians, so he could ride fast and warn the settlers. While in Fillmore, when around 12 years of age, he was asked to take the place of a sick Pony Express rider. He rode for three months, receiving full federal pay, and bought his first pair of spurs.

"D. N." was healthy, strong, and a hard worker. His father was the first bishop in the valley. He was called away from home much of the time to assist the saints to get settled, so young David had big responsibilities in early life helping with the family. He earned money and materials working in the timber, logging, road building, and freighting. By exchanging work with other men, he managed to get a two-room house built for his mother, which is still in good condition and is occupied. With authority from President Abram Hatch, he supervised the building of the first fence around our Heber Cemetery. He loved nature. The hills, valleys, mountains, rivers and forests were his education. He had little schooling. He always liked, and owned, good horses and traveled many, many miles on horseback. He knew oxen from "A to Z."

On January 14, 1878, he married Margaret Todd. He built a good two-room frame house with red sandstone walks all around, quarried with oxen from nearby hills. He was proud to bring his bride of a year to their own home, all paid for. Together they enjoyed relatives and friends. Many times strangers, Indians, and even tramps, ate at their table. All were made welcome. He was a good provider, always ready and willing to help anyone in need. Five sons and six daughters were reared here.

He was interested in ranching, range land, cattle, horses, but he never owned sheep. He had wagons, buggies, a bicycle, only one car, and he never cared to travel in an airplane. In later years he enjoyed seeing the big tractors, trucks, steam shovels, plow scrapers, and all the modern-day road work equipment. He also was vitally interested in the big reservoirs and waterways, thinking how much easier it was to build good roads and reservoirs than in his hard-working days with horses, plows, scrapers, wagons and a road crew.

He built the biggest barn in Wasatch County, and got out all the timber with oxen and horses during the winter months. All the logs were hand-hewn. He was an expert with ax, saw and hammer. He loved to work, and enjoyed good health all his days. He also had a healthy family. He enjoyed dancing, and gave several big public dancing parties on his birthdays, hiring

two orchestras to accommodate both old and young.

He spent his eighty-fifth birthday in Los Angeles with his sons. When they asked him what he wanted for a present he said, "A new bicycle." Not many boys his age would want such a gift, but he did, and he rode it to his last days.

Early in December he had a pain. Doctors called it appendicitis and advised an operation. He got along nicely and returned home. However, within a few days complications set in. He was returned to the hospital, where he passed away on December 13, 1951, realizing one of his greatest desires—"never to outlive his usefulness."

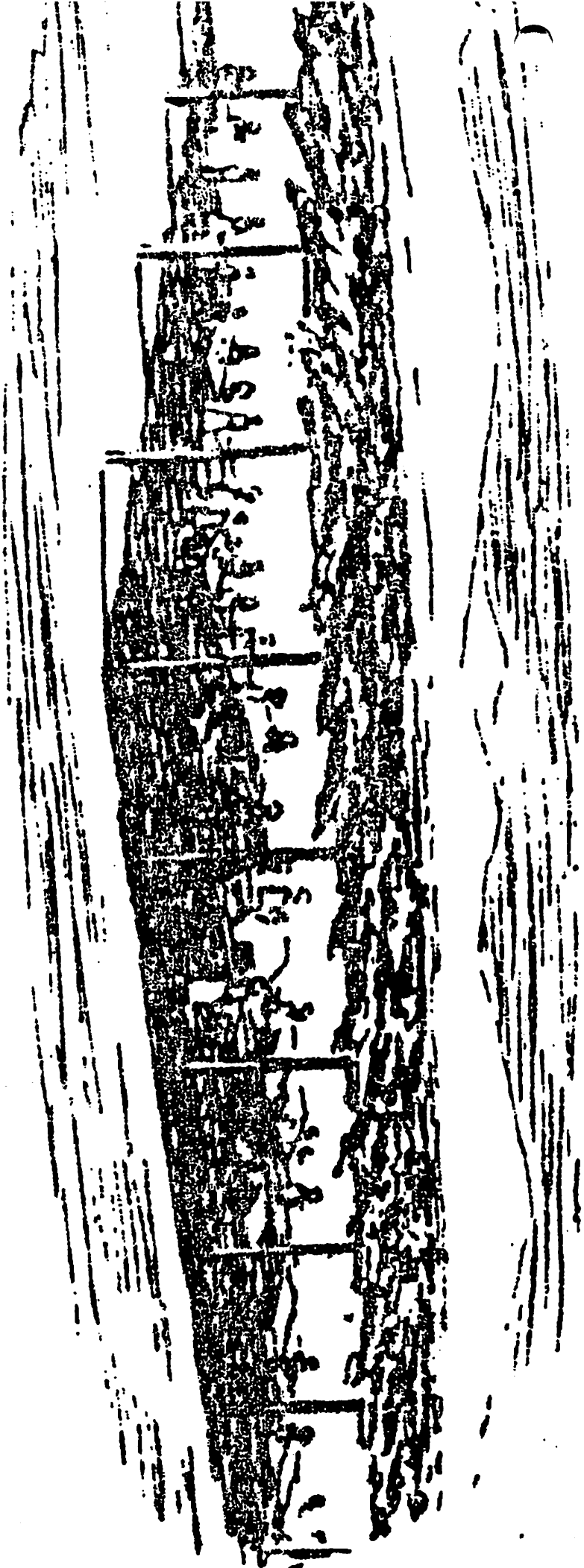
WILLIAM H. MURDOCK

William Henry Murdock was born April 9, 1861, at American Fork, Utah County, Utah, son of Joseph Stacy and Jane Sharp Murdock. The family moved to Heber City while he was a baby and he has since made it his home. He was married July 25, 1881, to Melissa Arletta Baum, who died in 1935. They were the parents of the following children: William Preston Murdock, who married Elizabeth Page; Della Marie Murdock; Nymphus Murdock, who died during infancy; Isaac Stacy Murdock, who married Gertrude Sexton; Gertrude Murdock, who died in infancy; Wallace Murdock, who married Della McMurray; and Ruby Murdock, who married Clarence Gott.

JOHN H. MURDOCK



John Heber Murdock, son of Joseph Stacy and Eliza Clark Murdock, was born in Church Pastures, Davis County, April 28, 1854. He moved with his parents to American Fork, and in 1862 came to Wasatch County.



The Bovery

CHAPTER THREE

... And They Grew and Waxed Strong

When the earth awakens to the call of Spring there is a new breath of life in the air. Trees and plants don colorful new wardrobes and men lift up their heads with fresh courage to face life.

Such was the case in Provo Valley as Spring came in 1860. Those who had endured their first winter in the valley eagerly set out to plant new crops, improve their log homes and visit once again in the lower valleys.

As better weather came, so also did an influx of new settlers. News that grain crops had matured encouraged many to come, and others were anxious to secure homes and water rights while good land was still available. They came for many reasons, but each possessed a pioneering spirit and each heart burned with the desire to carve from the earth a piece of freedom—freedom from want and freedom to worship God.

Before the original group left Provo City in 1859 they had appointed William Meeks as their leader. He never established a home in the valley and so early in the Spring of 1860 William Madison Wall was appointed as presiding elder in the valley. He chose as his counselors John M. Murdock and James Laird. Since all those in the valley were Latter-day Saints they looked to their Church leaders as legislative and judicial officials also.

As summer came in June of 1860 there were more than 200 people living and working in the new valley. The greater part of what was called the "North Field" was put into cultivation and good crops were raised.

Early in July the people began talking about celebrating July 24th in commemoration of the pioneer's entry into Great Salt Lake Valley 13 years previously.

Some suggested that a bowery should be built in which to hold a celebration. However, John M. Murdock, counselor to Elder Wall, said that with just a little more effort a meeting house could be built. This structure would serve not only as a Church but also as a school building, a dance hall, a theatre and for all kinds of community gatherings.

The idea won immediate approval and everyone began to work with vigor on the project. Logs were brought from the hills and stone was quarried for the fireplaces and chimneys. Through the enthusiasm of the people the building was completed on time and used in the "Pioneer Day" celebration.

The structure was erected inside the fort string of houses and was 20x40 feet in size. A large open fireplace and chimney was built in each end, large enough to take logs of wood three to four feet long. It was the assignment of the Deacons to keep logs on the fire. Families took turns making and furnishing candles for the meetings.

Even though the building was built of logs and had only a dirt floor and hand-hewn furniture, the people rejoiced for it and gave thanks for its protection and its purpose whenever they met within its walls.

As the little settlement sank its roots deeper into the Wasatch soil the need for a permanent name became apparent. Out of this need grew the name Heber City.

According to the journal of John Crook nearly all the early pioneers of Provo Valley had been converted to the gospel in Great Britain. Since Heber C. Kimball, beloved counselor to President Brigham Young, had been in charge of the first group of missionaries to the British Isles, there was popular acclaim to name the town after him.

When he learned of the decision to name the new community after him, President Kimball came to the town and met with the people. In his remarks he is reported to have said:

"Now you people have named your little town after me. I want you to see to it that you are honest, upright citizens and good Latter-day Saints that I may not have cause to be ashamed of you."

In addition to raising crops and building homes, the people also began to build barns, stables and other shelters for their oxen and cattle during the coming winter.

Because the animals grazed on open range lands during the summer months it also became necessary to build fences around the various sections of land that were under cultivation so that the cattle would not ruin the precious crops.

The need for fences gave rise to a curious political office—that of fence viewer. These officials were elected and given authority to compel people, if necessary, to build and keep in repair their fences. Estimates were made and it was determined that a rod of fence for each acre of land was required to enclose the field. Each person was responsible for his own land and fences. The most common type of fence was the "worm fence" or zig-zag construction that required no nails or wire to build.

Everyone was kept extremely busy during this time in making roads into the canyons so that fence poles could be brought out and logs could be obtained for building. Hay also had to be provided from the range lands for cattle during the long winter.

As harvest time came the early frosts again plagued the people. Even though the frosts caused the wheat to shrink somewhat, it was still suitable for flour. It was during the harvest season in 1860 that the first threshing machine was brought into the county.

Two men, identified only as Smith and Bullock, brought the machine